

Executive Registry

65-6896

26 November 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Talk with Senator Eugene McCarthy (D., Minn.)

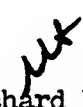
1. On Wednesday, 24 November, I had lunch with Senator McCarthy to reciprocate for a luncheon which he had given me many weeks ago. The reason for picking this time was to talk with him about his upcoming trip to Europe and to ask him whether or not he would like to visit Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty while in Munich, where he is scheduled to make a speech this coming Sunday. Since Senator McCarthy expressed an interest in visiting Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, I gave him the necessary information which would permit him to make proper contact for the briefings at these Radios. A good part of our conversation had to do with general remarks about such things as Viet Nam, the Dominican Republic, and the state of the world.
2. Senator McCarthy indicated that he had tried to have his Munich speech translated into German but that he had been unable to find a suitable translator in the Legislative Reference Section of the Library of Congress. I volunteered our services for this purpose, and subsequently picked up the speech from his office. (The German translation was delivered to Senator McCarthy's office at noon this date.)
3. Senator McCarthy told me that he had been asked to write an article on the Agency for THE NEW YORK TIMES but that he had told them that he would not make a decision on doing it until he returns in the middle of December from the current trip. He asked me if we had any thoughts on this subject. I replied that we would indeed turn it over in our minds and that I would talk to him some time after he gets back. The Senator was quite emphatic in stating that if he wrote an article, he wanted it to be "constructive". He said that he had regretted writing a couple of pieces about the Agency which had been critical and indicated that he did not intend in the future to participate in debates which took the Agency to task. He stated that an Agency such as this is necessary in the world as constituted today, that the

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continuity which the Agency represented, the expertese which it contained and various other factors made it a national necessity even though he might not personally subscribe to everything the Agency does. It was clear that the Senator has made a conscious decision to avoid further public criticism of the Central Intelligence Agency.

4. Senator McCarthy also mentioned his proposal to establish a select committee of the Senate to examine this Agency over a period of one year's time. He pointed out that Senator Russell next year would be involved in a life or death struggle for his Senate seat, and that 1966 might be a good time to have the Senate satisfy itself about the Agency's activities. I responded by saying that neither you nor I would oppose any legitimate approach made by the Congress of the United States under proper authority and authorization. I did indicate that our only concern was to have examination of this Agency's affairs conducted by staff men who are relatively permanent fixtures in the Congress, since there was nothing to stop such individuals from going back into non-Government life and writing books about what they had learned. Senator McCarthy replied that he understood my point and that if a select committee were established, it should probably be staffed by individuals who were currently working on our affairs in the appropriate committees of Congress. His concluding observation on this matter was to ask that you and I give thought to his select committee idea, looking, I gathered, to a conversation with him somewhat later on although he did not specifically invite a formal conversation.

5. The atmosphere of the luncheon was most pleasant throughout and I could sense no barbs or sharp edges in Senator McCarthy's attitude toward the Agency or its management.


Richard Helms
Deputy Director

cc: OGC

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